supporting its respective fabricated container in a loose manner, enabling the fabricated container to freely wobble relative to its holder under the influence of conveyor vibration and air currents within the oven, while preventing the fabricated container from making contact with any other fabricated container within the oven;

wherein each holder supports its respective container in a substantially vertical orientation;

wherein each of the holders includes an upstanding portion extending through a mouth of a respective fabricated container;

wherein each holder supports its respective fabricated container in an inverted state, with the upstanding portion extending upwardly through the mouth of the fabricated container;

wherein each holder further includes a generally horizontal shoulder portion located below an upper end of each upstanding portion for directly supporting a rim of the mouth of a respective fabricated container.

20. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the upright portion includes an upper end spaced below the bottom panel of its associated fabricated container when the mouth of the fabricated container rests upon the shoulder portion.

Cancel claims 15-19 and 21-23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Insert new claims 25 and 26 as follows:

-- 25. An apparatus for producing heat-insulating composite paper containers comprising:

an oven producing currents of heated air;

a conveyor for conveying a plurality of fabricated containers through the oven to cause a foamable material to foam on a surface of each fabricated container, the conveyor including a plurality of spaced apart holders for supporting respective fabricated containers, each holder configured for supporting its respective fabricated container in a loose manner, enabling the fabricated container to freely wobble relative to its holder under the influence of conveyor vibration and air currents within the oven, while preventing the fabricated container from making contact with any other fabricated container within the oven;

wherein each holder supports its respective container in a substantially vertical orientation;

wherein each of the holders includes an upstanding portion extending through a mouth of a respective fabricated container;

wherein each holder supports its respective fabricated container in an inverted state, with the upstanding portion extending upwardly through the mouth of the fabricated container;

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wherein each of the upstanding portions includes a plurality of metal rods arranged to contact an inner surface of the container at locations spaced apart circumferentially with reference to a vertical center axis of the upright portion; wherein each of the rods has upper and lower portions, the lower portion of each rod situated horizontally outwardly farther than the upper portion.

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~~26~~, The apparatus according to claim ~~25~~ wherein the holders are arranged in single file on the conveyor, and the conveyor extends through the oven along a serpentine path. --